

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSA-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-01 OMB-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /048 W

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P 092006Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6473

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD CO

SUBJ: USG/GOC BILATERAL TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 4025

1. FONOFF SOURCE (SOTO) HAS INFORMED EMB OF GOC WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS BEGINNING JAN 27. RESERVATIONS FOR USDEL MADE AT TEQUENDAMA AS REQUESTED.

2. PRESSURES IN US TO RESTRICT CLOTHING IMPORTS FROM COLOMBIA HAVE BEGUN TO RECEIVE ATTENTION IN LOCAL PRESS. LATEST ITEM IS AP RELEASE DATED WASHINGTON JAN 7 REPORTING PROTEST BY GARMENT WORKERS TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE DENT AND SPECIAL TRADE REP EBERLE RE SERIOUS DISLOCATIONS IN US GARMENT INDUSTRY ATTRIBUTABLE TO IMPORTS OF CLOTHING FROM COLOMBIA. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, WITHIN THE PAST 11 MONTHS 52 CLOTHING FACTORIES IN THE US HAVE CEASED OPERATIONS RESULTING IN THE DISMISSAL OF 3,500 WORKERS AND LEADING UNION TO REQUEST THAT USG IMPOSE STRICT CONTROLS ON IMPORTS FROM COLOMBIA. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT LAST OCTOBER COLOMBIA BECAME THE NUMBER ONE FOREIGN SUPPLIER OF SUITS AND JACKETS TO THE US.

3. LOCAL EDITORIAL REACTION THUS FAR HAS BEEN LIMITED, PROBABLY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ATTENTION BEING DEVOTED TO TRADE ACT. EL ESPECTADOR OF JAN 9 CARRIES TWO SHORT COMMENTARIES. PANGLOSS COLUMN NOTES THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES CAN BE VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CORDIAL UNTIL ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE AFFECTED, AT WHICH TIME

PROTECTIONISM SETS IN. TEXTILE IMPORTS ARE GIVEN AS ILLUSTRATION.
SHORT COMMENT BY JAIME SOTOMAYOR IS TO EFFECT THAT OPEN OPPOSIT-
ION IN US TO GARMENT IMPORTS FROM COLOMBIA WILL HAVE A SERIOUS
IMPACT ON THE GOC'S EXPORT STRATEGIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

4. EMBASSY ANALYSIS OF COLOMBIA TEXTILE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN
SUBMITTED AS BOGOTA A-1. COPY BEING AIRMAILED TO MAISTO ARA/LA/NC.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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